

Audubon

MAGAZINE

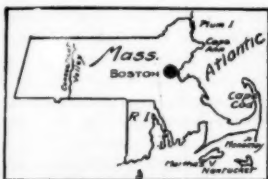
JANUARY-
FEBRUARY
1946

FALL
MIGRATION

SECTION II AUDUBON FIELD NOTES

Edited by Margaret Brooks Hickey

BOSTON REGION (Including "Nesting Season" notes which were not available for inclusion in the September-October 1945 issue.) The first 10 days of



June continued the abnormally cold weather of May. Heat and heavy rains characterized the balance of the month, with a near hurricane on the 26th which did wide-

spread damage. Tern nests were washed out at coastal points; marsh birds were completely flooded out, and the season was a complete failure. Many of the smaller land birds also suffered, but reports were highly contradictory. Unfavorable conditions extended to an unknown distance north of New England, and perhaps account in part for the crash in numbers of group after group of fall migrants. Barn owls were found nesting at new far "northern" outposts in Concord and Pittsfield. Skimmers appeared after the storm of June 26; a group in Plymouth built up in numbers to 18 adults in July, and in August to 25 birds including several immatures; other wandering birds appeared at 4 other Massachusetts localities.

July and August were relatively cool and wet. September, October, and most of November were remarkably warm and uniform, with few marked cool waves—a situation that provided unfavorable conditions for large returns afield. There were mild cool spells on August 23 and 27, September 13 and 23, October 10 and 14, but not a single "great wave" during the entire fall. Griscom and Eliot listed 100 species on October 10, possibly the optimum day of the season. The fall migration in certain respects reflected the abnormal spring. Those species that arrived very early began nesting early and got well started before the June rains,

did well and began leaving early, outstanding examples being the pine warbler, chipping sparrow, and tree swallow. Certain warblers got into trouble, gave up, and started south early. Other species tried again and remained late.

A long period of fog and drizzly rains blanketed New England in mid-November, and got various birds into trouble. Bewildered geese in large numbers, including many snow geese, were reported over Lake Champlain. A white-fronted goose was shot in New Brunswick. Another came down on the Cambridge Golf Course on November 12 and remained at least 12 days. An adult lesser snow goose joined it on November 18. Dr. Harris was lucky enough to see 6 swans milling in the fog over Cambridge on November 14. A Leach's petrel was noted from Cape Ann.

A raging gale battered New England on November 28-30, the worst in 47 years, and buried the country in snow. It may have served as the close of the "fall season." The fall's extreme mildness is reflected in the nonarrival of the bulk of various winter seafowl and the inevitable stragglers. In the latter category, the most remarkable record was that of the Arkansas kingbird—1 at Marblehead Neck on December 2 (Miss Caldwell, *et al.*), and another at East Gloucester on December 8 and 9 (R. C. Curtis, Edith Sloan Griscom) that provided a New England "record."

Pelagic birds—Great numbers of shearwaters appeared off Cape Cod in July, only greater thereafter. Wilson's petrel was abundant and remained late. There was a good flight of phalaropes, but jaeger numbers were very mediocre. A Sabine's gull stooped into our fishing boat on September 3 (Cottrell, Griscom) and came so close the forked tail could be seen with the naked eye.

Southern herons—There was no flight worth mentioning, but a Louisiana heron was seen in Cambridge on September 22 (Frances Elkins).

Ducks—The fall flight of practically every species

except the hardier salt-water species *positively* crashed, including even the black duck.

Hawks—The flight was poor along the coast, but good over Mt. Tom in mid-September (not in October). A Swainson's hawk was observed at Ipswich on August 23 (Curtis, Eliot, Griscom, Kellogg).

Shorebirds—This group had its poorest fall flight in 15 years. The black-bellied plover was the only species to show an increase. Curlews and western sandpipers appeared in good numbers. Notable declines in number were apparent in the turnstone, golden plover, lesser yellowlegs, knot, and sanderling. The pathetic number of snipe reported makes the term "flight" a hyperbole.

Gulls and terns—Ring-billed and laughing gulls decreased markedly. The fall migration of the usual terns amounted to nothing, but Forster's tern continued its increase.

Land birds—The great majority of species came through in poor numbers. Only the tree swallow was gratifyingly abundant as in earlier days.

The period under review produced reports of an abnormal number of accidental stragglers, many of which are best suppressed. Either the observers were inexperienced, or a sight record adds nothing to our permanent knowledge of Massachusetts birds. A little black rail was flushed 3 times at Plum Island on August 31 by a large party and almost caught alive. A blue grosbeak was shot on Cape Cod on October 14 and safely preserved. Numerous friends and companions will, I trust, appreciate that I have suppressed more great rarities seen by me than any other person in New England.—LUDLOW GRISCOM, *Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge 38, Mass.*

NEW YORK REGION September was an extremely wet but relatively warm month with light winds prevailing from the southern quadrant. Oc-



tober was cooler than normal with deficient sunshine and, at times, strong northwest winds, which continued intermittently throughout November; the latter two-thirds

of that month was abnormally wet but temperatures ranged above average.

The duck migration was only fair. Teal and pintails began to move through western Long Island in the first week of September, increasing in numbers later in the month when some good counts were made. Both wood ducks and ring-necked were scarce, and scaup not plentiful. The scoter flight was light on the south shore of Long Island but in early November thousands of white-

wings were in the Sound. Several whistling swans were reported on Long Island and on the New Jersey coast. The brant flight was rather good, based on the standards of the past few years. Canada geese were not reported in any considerable numbers. Snow geese are always rare migrants in this region but records of these birds were not unusual this fall: 1, Rutherford, N. J., November 5 (V. I. Ross); 17, Long Beach, L. I., November 17 (Bull, Rose); 15, Beach Haven, N. J., November 17 (M. M. Nichols). A still rarer migrant on the east coast is the white-fronted goose. A flock of 5 of these birds, 2 adults and 3 immatures, was seen passing low over Beach Haven Point, N. J., on November 16 (M. M. and C. K. Nichols).

Hawks—The fall hawk flight was thoroughly covered by numerous observers in the region; in fact, hawk migration is considered one of the chief study projects of the Urner Club, Newark, N. J. Migrants began to move through in late August; by mid-September the flight was heavy. On September 16 from Garrett Mountain (an outlier of the Watchung Range), at Paterson, N. J., more than 2000 hawks were recorded (Komorowski); 95% of these were broad-wings. On the same day about 1500 were seen at Montclair, N. J., several miles farther down this ridge. Farther to the east, and away from the mountain ridges, about 400 were seen at Hackensack, N. J. In each case about the same proportion consisted of broad-wings. On September 22 another flight was reported and on that day nearly 3000 hawks of all kinds were counted at Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx (Komorowski). In this flight the ratio of broad-wings to all others was not maintained, although 90% were of this species. The hawks came from the east in detached groups, gained elevation over the park and then strung off in a southwesterly direction over the Hudson River and entered New Jersey in the vicinity of the George Washington bridge. On that day over 2000 were recorded at Montclair (Van Deusen). Other large counts were made at Hackensack and at Bloomfield, N. J. None of the hawk rarities were reported until later in the fall. From the Kittatinny Mountains a flight was observed on October 28 that included 4 golden eagles and 3 goshawks; on other days ravens were seen. Apart from the broad-wings, the buteo counts were distressingly low. Particularly along the coast, duck hawks were seen in fair numbers; sharp-shins and Cooper's were numerous. The first rough-leg reported from the region was seen at Jones Beach, November 17 (Bull, Rose). On November 10 a dark gyrfalcon was seen at Gilgo, L. I. (Elliott) and, what was presumably the same bird, was again reported at the same place on November 24 (Darrow, Komorowski).

Shorebirds—In general the shorebird flight was good and most of the commoner species were numerous. Among the species that were down in numbers were willet, stilt sandpiper, and marbled godwit; those indicating an increase were black-

bellied plover, red-backed sandpiper, and sanderling. Golden plover were reported in small numbers, the maximum count at one time being 10 at Mecox, September 8 (Wilcox). A ruff, first reported at Jones Beach in late July (Ferguson), remained until the second week of August.

Both the little and the black-headed gulls were at their accustomed spot in The Narrows in New York Harbor. An Iceland gull was picked up dead at Idlewild on September 1. An immature of this species was seen at Lake Como, N. J., on November 4 (Edwards). These are the only reports of "white-wings." A remnant of the black-skimmer flock was still at Canarsie in mid-November. The numerous reports of snowy owls from all parts of the region seem to presage a well-marked invasion of these northern birds this winter.

Land birds—The land-bird migration was about normal as to time and character. There were good warbler flights in mid-September when numbers of Cape Mays and Tennessees were seen. Black-throated blues seemed less numerous than might have been expected. A heavy nighthawk migration occurred on September 12; a late whip-poor-will was reported at Northport, L. I., on November 6. A very large concentration of tree swallows was noted at Idlewild on August 29. Red-breasted nuthatches were unusually numerous on Long Island in fall migration (J. T. Nichols). Winter finches began moving into the region at the close of this period; pine grosbeaks were reported in northern New Jersey and several observations of evening grosbeaks were turned in both from Long Island and from New Jersey. Pine siskins were locally common on Long Island in early November. An unusual record was presented from Far Rockaway where, on October 14, an Oregon junco was seen (Bull); the bird was closely observed at short range and was under close inspection for some time.—CHARLES K. NICHOLS, *American Museum of Natural History, New York 24, N. Y.*

PHILADELPHIA REGION Mild weather conditions prevailed throughout the fall migration period. September was rather wet with few high



winds, October extremely mild with some windy days. November weather was normal on the average, with one or two summerlike days.

Pied-billed grebe—A very unusual number (30) of these birds were seen on a small lake near State College, Pa., on October 22 (J. A. Gillespie).

Cormorants—A spectacular southward movement

of double-crested cormorants occurred along the Jersey coast on September 30 during a northeaster. An estimated 20,000 passed over Beach Haven, N. J., from early morning until 2:30 P.M. (Culver). Flocks contained from 40 to 200 birds.

Ducks—Wood ducks were few in number. Black ducks and pintails were less numerous than usual. There was an unusual flight of 2000 ruddy ducks at National Park, Gloucester County, N. J., on October 21. The waterfowl flight reached its peak as to number of species on November 4 at Springton Reservoir, Delaware County, Pa., according to the records of J. P. and E. H. Rigby: common loon, 2; horned grebe, 9; pied-billed grebe, 6; Canada goose, 25; mallard, 150; black duck, 200; baldpate, 30; pintail, 6; canvas-back, 12; ring-necked duck, 12; golden-eye, 6; buffle-head, 7; old-squaw, 16; white-winged scoter, 1; ruddy duck, 14 (60 on November 10); red-breasted merganser, 6; coot, 40. Other records for that locality: wood duck, 3, October 20; whistling swan, 5, November 10; red-head, 2, October 13.

Hawks—A fine flight of broad-winged hawks occurred near Philadelphia during the third week in September. There were many reports of hawks circling high in the air, the largest number being 1000 on September 22. There were about the usual number of migrant pigeon hawks, sharp-shinned hawks, and Cooper's hawks reported from Cape May, N. J. An immature golden eagle was also seen there on October 21 (E. and K. Kramer). Many hawk enthusiasts visited Hawk Mountain, Pa., during the fall. Fine flights occurred during October and early November. On November 11 observers saw the following hawks pass the lookout: red-tailed hawk, 463; red-shouldered hawk, 5; goshawk, 8; golden eagle, 6; rough-legged hawk, 2; and a few Cooper's and sharp-shinned hawks. At Tuckerton, N. J., on September 30, Coman *et al.* observed 8 duck hawks. Large numbers of ospreys were moving south in a northeaster at Brigantine, N. J., on September 30 (Groskin).

Rails—Many clapper rails were flooded out of the salt marshes of Cape May County, N. J., on September 17 during a northeaster. Scores were reported strewn along the highway that crosses the salt marshes at Rio Grande, N. J. A black rail was seen at Holgate, N. J., on August 16 (Wright).

Shorebirds—Shorebird movements along the Delaware River seemed to be about normal. At Westville, N. J., on September 30, Manners observed: killdeer, 2; spotted sandpiper, 1; greater yellow-legs, 1; lesser yellow-legs, 150; pectoral sandpiper, 40; least sandpiper, 2; red-backed sandpiper, 20; stilt sandpiper, 15; semipalmated sandpiper, 50; western sandpiper, 30; sanderling, 3; Wilson's phalarope, 1. Shorebirds seen at Delair, N. J., on October 7 by Haines and Ward were: white-rumped sandpiper, 3; stilt sandpiper, 1; and on September 23, sanderling, 1; turnstone, 2. Interesting records of the coastal migration were 30 piping plovers and 1 marbled godwit at Holgate, N. J., on September 21

(Culver), and a golden plover and a Wilson's plover on September 16 (E. Rigby, Conway).

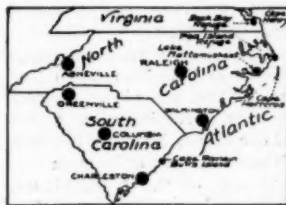
Owls—A snowy owl on a ridgepole of a house in Wenonah, N. J., on October 30 was a rather early and surprising record (Mrs. La Dow). The owl stayed in the vicinity for a week and roosted during the day on various housetops. Several more snowy owl records in late November were indicative of a marked invasion by these birds this winter. C. K. Roland reported a barn owl with newly hatched young in his barn near Kempton, Pa., on November 4. Professor Trembley reported 2 long-eared owls calling at dusk in late October and November at Hawk Mountain, Pa.

Small land birds—Many reports of pipits indicated a large flight, with 1000 being estimated at Evesboro, N. J., on November 18 (E. and H. Moore). Philadelphia vireos were more frequent than usual; among several records was one at Princeton, N. J., on September 9 (Rogers). Most reports indicated a scarcity of warblers throughout September, although some rarities were reported: Brewster's warbler at Addingham, Pa., on August 24 (Culver), and an orange-crowned warbler at Cape May, N. J., on October 20 (Jacobs). A horde of migrating sparrows (among them 8 white-crowns and 1 Lincoln's) filled the fields and bushes at Cape May, N. J., on October 20 (Jacobs). Another Lincoln's sparrow was seen on November 11 (Linton). Manners found 8 white-crowned sparrows at Westville, N. J., on October 20. A blue grosbeak was seen at Cape May, N. J., on September 22 (J. A. Gillespie). Evening grosbeaks made their appearance in this area during the first week in November: 3 near Haddonfield, N. J. (R. and H. Peters), 20 near Germantown, Pa. (J. Cadbury).

Other records of interest—Louisiana heron, 3, Cape May, N. J., August 23 (Culver); 1, September 8 (Buydos). Two parasitic jaegers and a Caspian tern at Corson's Inlet, N. J., September 29 (E. Rigby). At Stone Harbor, N. J., on August 26, there were 50 black terns, and on July 8 at Westville, N. J., 5 least terns (Manners). A fresh specimen of a dovekie was found at Holgate, N. J., on July 1 (M. Newman).

Behavior—On November 2 while Dr. and Mrs. Coman were driving near Millville, N. J., Mrs. Coman noticed a duck hawk sitting on a nearby stump. Stopping the car, Dr. Coman got out and approached the hawk, which flew a short distance and lit on the ground. This procedure continued, the flights getting shorter and shorter. Presently the hawk turned over on its back and presented its talons to the pursuer. It was easily secured. The perch was then examined and a dead crow, all but consumed, was found. The hawk was kept until the following day. When released, it flew off in a normal fashion, no injury being apparent. What caused this immature male hawk to behave in this fashion? Was he exhausted from coping with prey practically his own size, or had he consumed too much "Old Crow"?—J. K. POTTER, *Collingswood, N. J.*

CAROLINA REGION Coastal section—Temperatures were several degrees above normal during the last half of the period. Rainfall was several inches above normal during the first half.



Migration—Summer residents departed about on time, although 2 species were reported at rather late dates—an immature white ibis, August 28, at San-

tee-Cooper, S. C. (Eadie), and 10 brown pelicans, November 18, Wrightsville Sound, N. C. (Holmes). The latter species was still present at Charleston on December 1. Transient movements appeared to be normal among land and shorebirds. Among winter arrivals, a whip-poor-will, end of August, at Huger, S. C. (Dingle) was rather early; in the Charleston area half a dozen species were about on time, while others (sparrow hawk, song and white-throated sparrows, ruby-crowned kinglet, myrtle warbler, robin, house wren, etc.) appeared somewhat later than normally. Among waterfowl, a few individuals were early (1 blue-winged teal near Charleston, August 5 [Belser]; 3 baldpates at Romain, September 15; 1 ruddy duck on Bull's Island, September 27), and 5 species (shoveller, gadwall, blue-winged teal, Canada goose, and coot) were on time. The pied-billed grebe, black, pintail, green-winged teal, golden-eye, ring-neck, buffle-head (scarce), and hooded merganser were all somewhat late in arriving. Scattered reports from North and South Carolina indicated a continued decrease in the numbers of most ducks.

Uncommon or unusual—During a blow of 57 m.p.h. at Charleston, September 17, several sooty (?) terns were reported (Barrington) and a day or two later 5 sooties (2 handled) appeared at the Santee-Cooper refuge (Baldwin). On October 7, near Bull's Island, 3 long-billed curlews were noted (Baldwin, Sprunt); 8 by November 19 (Sprunt). Between November 1 and 7, there were 8 blue geese on Santee-Cooper (Baldwin), and 8 at Romain on November 14 (DuPre). A rough-legged hawk was seen several times at Bull's Island between November 15 and 29 (Sprunt, Hills). A white pelican (DuPre) appeared at Cape Island (Romain) on November 20. Mr. Sprunt reported an Arkansas kingbird at Bull's Island on November 24. Three days later, at the same place, a medium-sized *Myiarchus* was studied at close range and believed to be an olivaceous flycatcher (Sprunt, et al.), a new species for South Carolina.

Interior section—Temperature and rainfall were about normal, but heavy rains in mid-September made the rainfall for the month 8 inches above normal at Columbia and Raleigh. There were no movements of interest in July and August. At

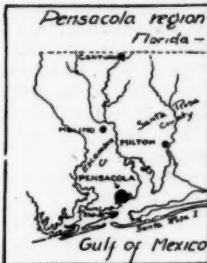
Henderson, Mrs. Bachman noted waves of migrants: gnatcatchers and redstarts, September 12; thrashers, September 18 and 23; thrushes, September 16; redstarts, September 24-26; Maryland yellow-throats, October 4; black-poll warblers, October 14. Cuckoos were scarce—only 1 record, at Columbia (Mrs. Charles), September 23. Few warblers were noted, but Cape Mays were reported to be injuring grapes at Seven Springs (Holmes) on September 23. A large flock of swifts and nighthawks were observed at Valdese, September 25 (Mitchell).

Summer visitors—Below are "last-seen" dates in September: hummingbird, Raleigh, 6th, Columbia on the 20th; crested flycatcher, Raleigh, 19th; gnatcatcher, Henderson, 12th. October departure dates were: swift, Raleigh, 15th, Spartanburg (Cannon) on the 17th; redstart, Roanoke Rapids (Miss Hearne), 15th, Columbia on the 19th, Edenton (Mrs. Bachman) on the 25th; wood pewee, Henderson, 26th. Maryland yellow-throats and catbirds were last seen at Henderson on November 22.

Winter visitors—Arrival dates for species from the north were: cedar waxwing, Spartanburg on September 12, Henderson on September 23, Columbia on October 10; pipit, Hickory (Wray), September 26; myrtle warbler, Raleigh, October 13, Spartanburg on October 14; white-throated sparrow, Henderson on October 10, Spartanburg on October 14; song sparrow, Henderson, October 13, Spartanburg on October 21; ruby-crowned kinglet, Raleigh, October 13, Spartanburg on October 10; purple finch, Spartanburg, October 30.

Noteworthy records—Observation of unusual interest were: a willet near Raleigh, August 13 (Mitchell); Wilson's warbler, Henderson, September 1; siskin, Henderson, November 4; red-breasted nuthatch, Spartanburg, November 18.

Mountain section—At Tryon (Holmes), migration was a week late; vireos were still scarce; Baltimore oriole was seen there on September 8. At Asheville (Mrs. Grinnell), warblers were noted in numbers on August 30-31 and September 30-October 2. Departure dates included: scarlet tanager, August 31; wood thrush, September 28; catbird, October 2; wood pewee, October 3; oven-bird, October 10. Arrival dates for species from the north were: white-throated sparrow, September 30; myrtle warbler, September 15; ruby-crowned kinglet, October 11; red-breasted nuthatch, October 15. A white-crowned sparrow at Asheville on October 31 was noteworthy; seen again at Asheville on November 6.—E. B. CHAMBERLAIN, *Charleston Museum, Charleston, S. C.*, and C. S. BRIMLEY, *Dept. of Agriculture, Raleigh, N. C.*



variety in October, and is not yet completed when the December "deadline" requires the mailing of this report. Temperature varied but little from normal this season until an early freeze came late in November, then the first 15 days of December averaged 6° below normal. Rainfall was much less than normal, and

long spells of clear weather in September and October permitted the unretarded passage of trans-Gulf migrants and cheated the field observer out of the "big list days" that he expects in these months. Lack of rain and the consequent dryness of upland areas account for the scarcity of solitary sandpipers and lesser yellow-legs and for the total absence of the Wilson's snipe from its usual haunts.

Great rarities of this migration were: cliff swallow, July 22; Baltimore oriole, September 16 and another on October 21; Arkansas kingbird, September 30; marbled godwit, October 4 (Miss L. Pate, Mrs. J. F. Wernicke); gray-checked thrush, October 4 and another on the 26th; knot, October 6; olive-sided flycatcher, October 7; Nashville warbler, November 7; Wilson's warbler, November 11. The flycatcher is one of the very few ever recorded in Florida; the Nashville warbler (a mangled specimen found on the road and carefully identified), although not new in the Florida list, is the only one I have ever seen; the Wilson's warbler is only the third ever recorded from the State. R. C. Hallman reports from Panama City, Fla., that the red-breasted nuthatch appeared on December 5 and again on the 9th. These are the first to be recorded in this region since the winter of 1941-42.

Arrival dates of expected species include: solitary sandpiper, first seen on July 19 (Mrs. Wernicke); sanderling (in nuptial plumage—gray birds were present all summer), spotted sandpiper, and black and white warbler, July 22; Hudsonian curlew (very rare), piping plover, least and western sandpipers, July 24; barn swallow, August 5; redstart, August 11 (Miss Pate); ruddy turnstone, dowitcher, and prairie warbler, August 12; cowbird, August 13 (Mrs. A. L. Whigham); Blackburnian warbler, August 17 (Miss Pate); worm-eating warbler (rare), August 19; oven-bird, August 26; sora and northern water-thrush, September 8; blue-winged warbler (rare), September 9 (earliest ever recorded, by 2 days); catbird, September 11 (Mrs. Whigham); Virginia rail, September 15; olive-backed thrush, September 16; coot (earliest ever recorded, by 2 days) and pigeon hawk, September 19; red-backed sandpiper and magnolia warbler, October 3; double-crested cormorant and black-throated green warbler, October 4; ring-billed gull, October 6; phoebe, tree swallow, and palm warbler, October 7; house wren, October 9 (Mrs. Wernicke); yellow-bellied

PENSACOLA (FLA.) REGION Fall migration in this region starts with the mid-July appearance of the shorebirds, reaches a peak of abundance and

sapsucker, short-billed marsh wren, and swamp sparrow, October 10; ruby-crowned kinglet, October 11 (Mrs. Whigham); white-throated sparrow, October 12 (Mrs. Whigham); herring gull, October 17; killdeer, October 20; myrtle warbler, October 26 (Mrs. Whigham); whip-poor-will (Miss Pate), golden-crowned kinglet (Mrs. Whigham), and song sparrow, October 27; common loon, white pelican, blue goose, lesser scaup, brown creeper, hermit thrush, and orange-crowned warbler, October 28; robin, November 3; mallard and red-breasted merganser, November 4; horned grebe, November 7; blue-headed vireo (late), November 10 (K. R. Tanner); goldfinch, November 15 (Mrs. Whigham); Bewick's wren and cedar waxwing, November 18; purple finch, November 24 (Mrs. Whigham); Bonaparte's gull, December 9; gannet (earliest ever recorded, by 24 days) and American golden-eye, December 16.

The mockingbird, although not considered a migrant in the South, is known to pass through this region in great numbers between the last week of September and early November. Perhaps this movement includes only birds from farther north and may not involve local residents. An indication of this definite migration was noted on September 26, when a group of 27 mockingbirds was counted in a small area of scrub oak that does not normally support more than a pair.

An interesting instance of the fall revival of the mating instinct was noted in the ruby-throated hummingbird. On September 16, with hummingbirds abundant in the coastwise woods, a male bird was seen to perform the full "pendulum swing" mating flight.

Departure dates include: Mississippi kite, last seen on August 5; Wilson's plover, August 12; least tern, August 27 (Tanner); gray kingbird and prairie warbler, September 4; worm-eating warbler (latest ever recorded, by 4 days) and Kentucky warbler, September 16; purple martin, September 18 (Mrs. Whigham); yellow-crowned night heron, September 19; solitary sandpiper, September 21; northern water-thrush, September 22; crested flycatcher, September 23; eastern kingbird, October 1; nighthawk, October 2; yellow warbler, October 3; yellow-throated vireo, October 10; white ibis (latest ever recorded, by 1 day—reported by Tanner), broad-winged hawk (latest ever recorded, by 18 days), spotted sandpiper, and yellow-billed cuckoo, October 14; olive-backed thrush, October 17; parula warbler, October 20; ruddy turnstone (latest ever recorded, by 23 days), wood thrush, and Blackburnian warbler, October 21; rose-breasted grosbeak (latest ever recorded, by 3 days), black-throated green warbler, summer tanager, and blue grosbeak, October 23; redstart and indigo bunting (both reported by Mrs. Whigham) and oven-bird, October 26; magnolia warbler, October 27; black tern, wood pewee, barn swallow, and red-eyed vireo, October 28; chimney swift, October 29 (Mrs. Wernicke); ruby-throated hummingbird, October

31 (Mrs. Whigham); osprey, November 4; and American egret, November 11.—FRANCIS M. WESTON, 2006 East Jordan St., Pensacola, Fla.

OHIO-MICHIGAN REGION There was nothing about the weather, which produced a dry, late summer and a mild, moist autumn, to explain the interesting developments of the fall migration.



There were two major events of the season. Of general interest was the invasion of snowy owls, beginning in northeastern Michigan about October 1 and becoming evident widely in the last week of the month. With information still coming in, C. T. Black of the State Conservation Department reports 283 snowy owls, shot or seen, in Michigan before December 7. No similar Ohio compilation is available yet.

The other big event of the fall was a visitation of geese—Canada, blue, and lesser snow. The average observer in this region sees one or two high-flying flocks of Canada geese each fall and, except in northern Michigan and on a few sanctuaries where geese stop regularly, fails to see the blue and snow geese in most years. This year, however, the 3 species paused in many localities for several weeks, beginning in mid-October, resting on lakes and reservoirs and feeding in the fields of harvested corn and of sprouting winter wheat. In Ohio, typically, blues outnumbered snows about 10 to 1. It may be significant that geese taken by hunters proved to be almost devoid of fat; in fact, some weighed only half the normal amount. The blues and snows departed by the middle of November but the Canadas remained into December.

Another northern visitor, the parasitic jaeger, which has not been reported in this region for several years, came to the south shore of Lake Erie this season in unusual numbers. Of 3 birds of this species lingering at Cleveland, one was eventually found dead and was deposited in the Cleveland Museum. At Toledo, 2 jaegers, presumed to be immature parasitic, remained from September 23 through the fall. Two more appeared near Put-in-Bay.

The fall warbler movement was late, as might have been expected, following the retarded nesting season. There was scarcely a good warbler day

until the latter part of September. One of the few notable features of the early fall was the good flight of red-breasted nuthatches, which are never numerous and in some years are almost totally missing in this region.

This is an exceedingly bad year for the gallinaceous birds. The ruffed grouse in the northern woods and the ring-necked pheasant in the farmlands are considerably below normal in numbers. The bob-white has shown no sign of recovering from the low level of the last 2 years. In the case of the pheasant at least, the cold, wet weather of the spring is believed to have been an important factor in this year's poor nesting success.

Rarities—A red-throated loon was seen at Put-in-Bay on November 10 (Trautman); this is the first record for the island area. Holboell's grebe was noted on September 23 at Hess Lake in Newaygo County, Mich. (Ford). Sixty-four double-crested cormorants, an exceptional number, visited Put-in-Bay on October 21 (Walker). The only snowy egret of the season was observed near Toledo on August 30 (Van Camp).

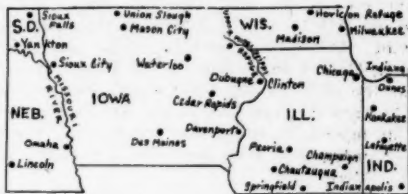
Two golden eagles migrated across the Lake Erie islands on November 9 (Trautman) and December 1 (Walker). A yellow rail was seen near Pinconning, Mich., on September 19 (Black).

A number of interesting shorebird records were compiled by Carrothers, Morse, Skaggs, Hill, Cook, and Smith in the Cleveland-Akron-Youngstown area: Hudsonian curlew, September 18 to October 4; knot, September 8 to 16; northern phalarope on several dates with a highly unusual group of 11 on September 8; red phalarope on November 25. The western sandpiper, which is probably not so rare here as has been supposed, was noted at Akron (Smith) and near Battle Creek on September 1 (Peterson). One Hudsonian godwit paused briefly on a mudflat in Michigan near Toledo on November 18 (Mayfield).

The great black-backed gull put in an early appearance at Put-in-Bay on November 10 (Walker) and in the Michigan waters of Lake Erie near Toledo on November 30 (O'Reilly). Franklin's gull was seen in the latter location on several occasions between August 22 and November 18 (Campbell and Mayfield).

In late November and early December evening grosbeaks were seen repeatedly at Put-in-Bay; at least 29 were present on November 27. A sharp-tailed sparrow was studied in detail near Cleveland on September 23 (Carrothers, Hill, Godfrey and others).—HAROLD MAYFIELD, 3311 Parkwood Ave., Toledo, Ohio.

MIDDLE-WESTERN REGION The cool and rainy weather of summer continued through September and was climaxed with killing frosts from September 29 to October 5, which extended pro-



gressively eastward through the region. October was dry but mild enough to allow maturing and harvesting of crops. A severe cold wave the second week of November with rain and snow drove birds south in numbers.

In general, the fall migration was irregular and unusually slow during September when excessive rain fell. Both the warbler and sparrow flights were light. Few mud flats were available for shorebird use.

The goose flight through the Mississippi River valley was the highlight of the fall. Canada geese were noted at Yankton, S. D., beginning October 14 (Larrabee), with a few snow geese. In Wisconsin, these birds were noted during the last half of October and the first 10 days in November on the Horicon refuge by Beed, where a few snow and blue geese were also seen. In Illinois, Harold Bennett noted 100 Canada geese on October 1 at Rockford. Nork and Clark found 60 at McGinnes Slough, Chicago, November 3, and Eifert found them at Springfield on the same date.

Blue geese were reported in Iowa in greater numbers this fall than for several years. While spring concentrations along the Missouri River valley normally contain more than 500,000 birds, the fall migration is still believed to be nonstop from James Bay to Louisiana except for occasional straggling along the line of flight, such as was noted particularly in the Chicago area this fall. Bartel reported mixed flocks of blues and snows from November 5-8. Ten waves containing about 400 snows and blues flew over Evanston, Ill., November 5 (DuMont). About 5000 geese—two-thirds snows and one-third blues—were seen on November 12 near the Des Plaines River west of Lake Forest by Hermon and Ellen Smith. These geese reached Springfield on November 4, and by the 15th a flock of 500—one-third snows and two-thirds blues—was present.

Most observers agreed that ducks were fewer in number and arrived on schedule. Jack Musgrove considered the flight through Iowa as heavy but with few juvenile birds except in the case of the blue-winged teal. In Wisconsin and Illinois the number of ducks was considered far below average. At Springfield, Eifert noted large flocks containing hundreds of ruddy ducks on November 10, and 3 old-squaws on November 4—a rare bird in central Illinois. Eifert considered the hooded mergansers to be exceptionally abundant both in separate flocks and mixed with ruddies and mallards.

American egrets were observed near Lansing, Iowa, on July 14, and by August 20 about 30 were present (Steele). In northern Iowa, on Union Slough, Milfred Smith found 5 on August 17, and 9 on the 20th. At the Chautauqua refuge, Elletbrecht reported 50 on July 10 and 800 on August 5. At Springfield, 15 egrets were present on August 28 (Bonney), while 2 on November 3 were the last seen (Eifert).

A flock of about 2000 white pelicans was seen near Ruthven, Iowa, by Henry Whitford in October (Harlan). A migrant least bittern was noted in Evanston on August 12 (DuMont). Keith Caldwell observed at leisure and positively identified a western grebe on Lake Michigan near the Indiana Dunes State Park on October 27. A direct comparison with horned grebes for size was possible. A red-throated loon was also seen in the same locality.

Shorebird observations were limited. Larrabee found few birds because of the dryness in southeastern South Dakota. A woodcock, seen at Union Slough on August 7, was unusual (Smith). Two pectoral sandpipers at Montrose Beach, Chicago, were rather late (C. T. Clark). Musselman was able to identify 3 golden plover specimens killed by a farmer's boy from a flock of 300 near Quincy, Ill. A report of the shooting stopped it immediately. This plover has increased as a fall migrant in this region, although it follows a narrow route southward through the interior.

Leopold reported a simultaneous scarcity in southern Wisconsin of pheasants, Hungarian partridges, bob-whites, ruffed grouse, prairie chickens, and sharp-tailed grouse. He noted that the 3 grouse are usually low simultaneously, but this has not usually coincided with low years in pheasant and quail. Milfred Smith reported 20 per cent fewer pheasants at Union Slough Refuge, Iowa, and he saw only 3 Hungarians.

Rough-legged hawks appeared at Madison on October 14 (Leopold) and at Horicon, Beed reported them and the red-tail to be much more numerous than usual. This increase was thought to be attributable to the abundance of meadow mice which are now reaching the peak of their cycle. This food supply may also have accounted for the hundreds of short-eared owls that stopped at the Horicon Marsh after the severe blizzard of November 21. Jack Musgrove reported seeing 2 immature goshawks killed in Boone County, Iowa, October 27, and identifying a Richardson's pigeon hawk taken in Polk County, Iowa, October 24.

A red-shafted flicker was seen at Yankton, S. D. (Larrabee). No hybrid features with the yellow-shafted form could be detected. Curtis Iverson reported a red-bellied woodpecker at Battle Creek, Iowa, October 10; this bird is scarce in northwestern Iowa. A large migration of cedar waxwings occurred at Horicon, Wis., August 27 (Beed) and 300 were seen at Rockford, Ill., 75 miles south, on September 1 (Bennett).

Eifert called attention to the complete absence

of black-billed cuckoos at Springfield this year, while the yellow-billed was abundant. First migrant nighthawks were seen on August 26, with the last on October 3 at Springfield and the 4th at Belvidere, Ill. (McMaster). A hummingbird on October 5 at Blue Island, Ill., was the latest report (Bartel). Beed has found the starling population at Horicon to be increasing steadily the past 3 years. Crows have been seen in fewer numbers during the same period, but following the storm of October 21 Beed estimated the nightly roost to contain at least 10,000 birds.

Few early migrant warblers were reported. The peak was reached about September 30, with stragglers remaining slightly later than usual. A palm warbler, seen at Yankton, on November 6, is of interest because of the normal scarcity of this bird in South Dakota (Larrabee). A Connecticut warbler was seen at Blue Island, Ill., October 15 (Bartel). Mrs. Battell had a myrtle warbler at her feeding tray in Ames, Iowa, for a month until November 25.

The last Bell's vireo was seen at Yankton on September 6 (Larrabee), and at Springfield on September 25 (Bonney). A Bewick's wren banded at Blue Island on September 28 was the first seen by Bartel since May 1, 1939. Four short-billed marsh wrens at Springfield on August 13 were the only ones reported (Bonney).

Larrabee reported a dickcissel at Yankton on September 5; these birds normally disappear in August, as is shown by the date of August 13 when they were last seen at Springfield (Bonney). The entire absence of white-crowned, clay-colored, Lincoln's, and vesper sparrows at Yankton was unprecedented but most sparrows were exceedingly numerous as migrants through Illinois. Bartel banded 2 Harris's sparrows on October 10 and 14.

Observations by Harold E. Bennett at Rockford, Ill., were made in that portion of the city when D.D.T. was sprayed as a possible control measure against polio. Spraying by plane was done on August 15 and ground spraying continued throughout the month. Bennett concluded that the solution must have been weak since flies and mosquitoes survived. No avoidance or desertion of the area by birds could be detected. Nighthawks were very numerous, and waxwings were noticed "hawking" for insects. Purple martins and chimney swifts were very plentiful this year. Bennett believes that no harm was done to bird life as a result of this spraying.—PHILIP A. DuMONT, *Evanston*, and ELLEN THORNE SMITH, *Lake Forest, Ill.*

MISSOURI REGION At the time Season reports were due, a telegram advised us that the editor of the Missouri Region was in the hospital and unable to prepare his report. We sincerely hope that by now Mr. Cunningham is fully recovered.

MINNESOTA REGION *Weather*—The late summer and fall (to November 15) presented no very unusual weather conditions. Brief temperatures of



90° occurred in late August and September. The first frost in the north-central parts of the state was on September 15 and at Minneapolis on September 28, with the first killing frost on that date (average date for first killing frost October 12). October was about normal except that there was little rain and the high water of earlier days subsided rapidly, leaving the

shores and mudbanks exposed for the influx of shorebirds. With the advent of November came winter conditions with freezing morning temperatures but only light snowfall. From Duluth up on Lake Superior, Mrs. Olin reports the weather as follows: "August and September were wetter than normal. August was warmer than normal, while September was cool. The first killing frost was on September 28, but I picked asters and mums on October 24 and a quart of strawberries on October 21. One inch of snow on November 8."

Migration—The fall migration is ushered in about midsummer by the surprisingly early arrival of the advance southward-bound shorebirds—the yellowlegs, peeps, solitary, pectoral, and others. This scattered vanguard is steadily increased in number and variety until by late August and early September, the multitude has arrived. A marvelous sight they are as, springing from some chosen feeding place, they all circle about in perfectly synchronized flight, now backs, now bellies presented to the fascinated onlooker.

This year during the last weeks of August shorebirds arrived in great numbers on the sloughs along the Minnesota River not far south of Minneapolis, and on August 27 there was a very great aggregation of many species on the mudflats there (Lupient), but by September 7 when Dr. Breckenridge went out to examine them they were nearly all gone. On August 14, Dr. Lakela of Duluth reported seeing on Minnesota Point 10 buff-breasted sandpipers, 1 golden and 3 black-bellied plovers. "The buff-breasted sandpipers were in the road puddles right in front of my car and ran along the side to another puddle in the grass. It was almost as good as having them in the hand."

A flock of 200 golden plovers was seen October 20 near Herman, Grant County, by T. Surber.

The following observations are by Mrs. I. A. Lupient for the general Minneapolis area including the Minnesota River sloughs and Bass Ponds, a few miles south of Minneapolis; September 11, a male northern yellow-throat, mounting in the air and singing its nuptial song; September 16, Har-

ris's sparrows, flight of snow geese; September 20, flock of black ducks; September 21, large migration of coots; September 28, large movement of land birds all day, and a flock of evening grosbeaks on the wooded bluffs along the Mississippi River at Minneapolis (feeding as usual on keys of box elder); October 10, American pipit, a northern shrike; October 14, several flocks of snow geese and one of blue geese, passing over, 2 Hungarian partridges; November 5, 4 pectoral sandpipers, a late date; November 19, a flock of 100 snow buntings.

Duluth supplied the following records: September 7, Lapland longspurs (Olin); September 9, a Bewick's wren, second record for Duluth (Dr. Lakela); same date, semipalmated plover, golden and black-bellied plovers, Baird's sparrow, sanderling, and a warbler wave, including the Cape May and black-throated blue (Duluth Bird Club by Dr. Lakela); September 14, flock of evening grosbeaks; October 7, flock of 5 chukar partridges along North Shore Road, very tame (Olin); November 3, snow buntings (Olin).

American egret—Egrets were present at a number of localities in southern Minnesota throughout the early fall. Ten or a dozen were present at the Long Meadow Sloughs from late August to the middle of September when the opening of the duck season frightened them away (Mrs. Lupient, Dr. Breckenridge, and others). Two were reported from Glenwood (Pope County) on September 23 by Dr. I. S. Benson, and 15 feeding in a slough on September 15 near Spirit Lake, not far south of Heron Lake, Jackson County, by Frank B. Kalash of Lakeville. Others were seen at the same place before and after this date. All these birds were reported to be in the mature white plumage with yellow bills.

Snowy owl—The number of reports of snowy owls suggests that there is a considerable southward migration. At least 8 or 10 from the Twin Cities area and 2 from Duluth (Lakela and Olin). Dr. Marshall of the Farm School, St. Paul, reported one sitting on the roof of the Administration Building.

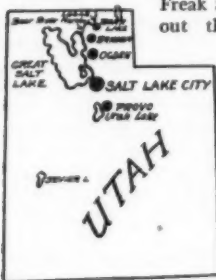
Tufted titmouse—More than the usual number of reports of tufted titmice have been received this season: 6 at feeding station at Hopkins (a suburb of Minneapolis) on November 11 (Mrs. Hamilton), and others at various places. Two pairs nested last spring for the second time at Rushford, Fillmore County (Miss Magelssen).

Prof. O. A. Stevens of State College Station, Fargo, N. D., sends a list of fall records dated November 26, which shows a relative scarcity of birds and adds this comment: "In general nearly everything scarce. No siskins, no redpolls, no Bohemian waxwings." Mrs. Peterson of Madison, Minn., in sending her list of banded birds, made the same comment.

Ring-necked pheasant—After the cold, wet spring, ring-necked pheasants have been much reduced in number this fall. North Dakota found it expedient

to close portions of the state after the open season revealed the scarcity and immaturity of the birds. —THOMAS S. ROBERTS, *Director, Minnesota Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn.*

UTAH REGION The Salt Lake Tribune of September 21 tersely summed up the weather to that date in a news item captioned "Curtain Falls on Freak Summer." July passed without the temperature exceeding



100°F.; August let loose some of the most violent and freakiest storms recorded in weather-bureau history. September provided a beautiful Indian summer except for one cold storm around the 20th. October and November mildness was frequently broken by storm waves that must

have spent their moisture elsewhere. Two cold snaps occurred around the 20th of October and November, but December came in on bare, unfrozen ground.

In spite of the cool summer and more than usual amount of water, Vaney T. Wilson, superintendent of the Bear River National Wildlife Refuge, reports the worst outbreak of botulism (duck sickness) in that area in 3 years. Little sickness occurred on the Farmington Bay Refuge or on the adjoining New State Gun Club, which are only 50-60 miles south of the Bear River refuge. The few afflicted birds at these 2 points undoubtedly contracted their sickness elsewhere (Cox, Terry).

The violence of the summer storms should be noted, especially the one on the evening of August 19 which centered its fury on the Salt Lake Airport, 4 miles west of town. There the framework of 35 planes was so badly battered by wind and 2-inch hail that 12 of them were beyond repair; the wind also tore 3 planes from their moorings and tossed them over an 8-foot fence 150 feet away. On the following morning, 14 inches of hail was measured in one gutter. Between 50 and 60 English sparrows were found dead under one tree. Fortunately for wildlife, the path of the hail was narrow. I sat reading in my home a mile south of the hail center without knowing of it, although I was concerned by the accompanying rain, which did over \$250,000 damage in one section of town alone.

During the cool days following, George Cox, custodian of the New State Gun Club, noted a decided thinning out of most of the species of birds, even the waterfowl. The latter, however, were soon replaced by new flights, mostly of pintails.

Pintails and green-winged teal reached their maximum numbers on the Bear River refuge by

September 1, when 400,000 and 350,000 respectively were the estimates of the staff. Even these seem like modest figures for the hordes I saw there on September 23. Mallards, gadwalls, and shovellers, mostly local breeders, trailed along with 25,000-35,000 each. Canvas-backs, lesser scaup, and buffleheads were first noted on October 12 and 13 (V. T. Wilson).

The season's unusual weather was bound to bring in reports of unusual observations. Two red-backed and a small flock of western sandpipers were seen at Farmington Bay on July 14 (Guy Emerson). A flock of at least 25,000 purple martins at Provo Beach, Utah Lake, on August 8 was hawking along the lake shore and moving in a general southerly direction (A. M. Woodbury and party). Snow geese arrived at the Bear River refuge on September 26 (W.). Poor-wills remained late—2 on October 8 (Taylor, Webb), also November 4 (Bauer, Webb, Lockerbie). A fresh, road-killed burrowing owl was found on November 18 (L., Woodbury).

Crows arrived in Utah County on October 2, month early (Woofenden). Local breeding birds, such as the Audubon's warbler, gray-headed junco, and white-crowned sparrow, were still in the mountain valleys above 10,000-foot elevation on October 7. A pigeon hawk was reported near the city cemetery on August 8 (Taylor) and September 30 (Webb). A myrtle warbler (W.) and a flock of 15 bush-tits were seen in City Creek Canyon on November 17, and a warbling vireo remained in Memory Grove until October 3 (Taylor). At the Bear River refuge whistling swans have shown a great increase; 20,000 birds were concentrated there on November 15 (V. T. Wilson). Woofenden reported 100 blue geese in flight over Utah Lake on November 3.

At the Bear River refuge counts and estimates were made by the refuge staff on September 1, and Lockerbie made observations around unit 2 and parts of units 1 and 3 on September 23. Comparison of figures shows that there was a decided movement southward between those dates: western grebe, 1000 on September 1, 72 on September 23; white pelican, 10,000 and 2000; double-crested cormorant, 350 and none; snowy egret, 2300 and 100; white-faced glossy ibis, 3500 and 350; long-billed curlew, 100 and none; Franklin's gull, 1500 and none; Forster's tern, 1500 and 100; Caspian tern, 100 and none; black tern, 1200 and none.

Whistling swans were first reported from the Bear River refuge on October 12; they reached peak numbers there on November 15 (20,000 birds—V. T. Wilson), at Utah Lake on November 3 (Woofenden), at the New State Gun Club on November 11 (Cox). Lesser snow geese arrived on September 26, and reached the peak number of 6000 on November 15 (W.); there were 15 at Ogden Bay on October 6 (Thayer Evans), 80 at Utah Lake on November 3 (W.).

Shorebirds—The only impressive shorebird figures from the Bear River refuge survey of September 1

were of 2000 godwits, 4000 avocets, and 2500 black-necked stilts. My only contact with large numbers was on August 15 when I saw 2000-3000 northern phalaropes along the southern shore of Great Salt Lake, west of Saltair.

Gulls—Ring-bills (150) first arrived on August 12 (L.); Franklin's (72) departed on September 3, Farmington Bay (Webb, Taylor).

The last migrant nighthawks in any number (40) were observed on September 9 (Bader), but singles were noted until September 26 (L.). The olive-sided flycatcher was last reported on September 20 (Webb). Thousands of barn swallows congregated at the Bear River refuge on September 23 (L.). Clark's nutcracker was common about Alta and Brighton on September 3, and was still present on October 7 (L.). A flock of 100 mountain bluebirds was reported on October 1 (Dixon). Golden-crowned kinglets were common about the lower canyons on October 21 (Webb), and 39 ruby-crowns were recorded on the Audubon field day, October 14. Flocks of 5-40 cedar waxwings were regularly reported on the east bench by Gordon Taylor, Webb, and Earl Heusser. Audubon's warbler was the only warbler to be reported in any numbers; they were most common about town during the middle of October, and stragglers remained through November.

Sparrows—Departure dates were: vesper, 4, September 23 (L.); savannah, 15, September 23; chipping, 6, October 14; Brewer's, 5, September 27 (L.); white-crowned common, October 7; fox, 1, September 7 (Webb); Lincoln's, 1, singing, September 3 (L.); sage, 10, November 30. Arrival dates included: slate-colored and pink-sided juncos, October 8 (Webb), both species more common this year than usual; Montana junco, common by October 15; Gambel's sparrow, September 9.—C. W. LOCKERBIE, 223 West 9th South St., Salt Lake City, Utah.

TEXAS COASTAL REGION The summer months were typically hot and dry, and those of autumn much warmer than usual. November, with an average



maximum temperature of 76.6°, was the second hottest November on record. North winds brought cool weather on August 19 (maximum 70°), September 10-15, September 29-30, October 4-5 (maximum 66°).

October 9-10, October 23-24, November 2-3, November 11, November 19. Two hurricanes, bringing prolonged northeast winds, occurred during the summer. One was centered off the coast of Texas from July 19 to 22, and the other ground up the coast from Corpus Christi to Matagorda Bay from August 25 to 28. In a 24-hour period on August 27-28, 15 inches of rain fell in the Houston area.

Generalizations—The warm autumn had no perceptible effect on migration; indeed, departures from normal were rather early than late. Nearly every species of duck and goose arrived from one to two weeks early. The ducks seemed to be less numerous than normal in the early part of the season, but the geese were numerous from the beginning. Being caught exactly right by the weather, the warblers made a remarkable showing. With the cool weather of August 19, blue-gray gnatcatchers and ruby-crowned kinglets appeared surprisingly early at Rockport. A migration of water-turkeys, Mississippi kites, flycatchers, and all the swallows took place on the northeast winds of August 27-28. The common wintering hawks (except the red-tailed) showed up immediately after the mid-September cool weather. A great flight of warblers and the common wintering sparrows came with the northerly of September 29 and October 4. The geese arrived with the October 9-10 norther, and nearly all the other winter visitors appeared after the northers of October 24 and November 3.

Last dates for summer visitors—Green heron and roseate spoonbill at Rockport on November 2; reddish egret at Galveston on October 14; black-necked stilt at Rockport on October 28; chimney swift at Houston on November 2 (Pattie), a very late date; ruby-throated hummingbird at Houston on October 15; eastern kingbird at Rockport on September 4, and at Galveston on September 6; scissor-tailed flycatcher at Rockport on November 30; purple martin at Rockport on August 27.

First dates for winter visitors—Canada geese arrived at Sheldon on October 7, and all the other wintering geese were seen passing over Houston from October 10 to 17. The blue-winged teal is always early: Cove on August 8, Rockport on August 23. Later ducks arrived in 3 groups: (1) pintail on September 12 and shoveller on September 19 at Rockport; (2) mallard at Corpus Christi on October 21, lesser scaup at Rockport on October 24, redhead at Rockport on October 26, ring-necked at Corpus Christi on October 26; (3) canvas-back at Rockport on November 5, buffle-head at Rockport on November 9, red-breasted merganser at Corpus Christi on November 18, American golden-eye at Rockport on November 28.

The piping plover arrived at Rockport on July 29, semipalmated plover at Cove on August 10, spotted sandpiper at Cove on August 7, western and semipalmated sandpipers at Rockport on August 6. Myrtle warblers were noted at Houston on October 29, at Rockport on November 4, and at Corpus Christi on November 4. Lincoln's sparrow and song sparrow appeared at Corpus Christi on October 25, savannah sparrow and white-crowned sparrow at Rockport on October 4.

Warblers—The following are observations at Rockport except as otherwise indicated: black and white on September 18, Corpus Christi on October 27 (1); Nashville on October 11, Corpus Christi on November 4; blue-winged on October 4; parula on

October 4; yellow on August 23; magnolia on October 4; bay-breasted on October 4; northern water-thrush on September 4; yellow-breasted chat on October 4. Houston on September 2; Connecticut on October 4; Wilson's on September 23, Houston on September 11; Canada on September 23, Kemah on September 30; redstart on October 4, Kemah on September 30, and Houston on October 7. At Kemah: black-throated green, September 30; yellow-throated, September 30; sycamore, September 30; orange-crowned November 4. The Kentucky warbler arrived at Cove on August 9.

In this report the data from Corpus Christi were contributed by Fred M. Packard, who is temporarily stationed in that city. As usual, the data from Rockport were contributed by Mrs. Conger Hagar, and those from Cove by A. K. McKay. —GEORGE G. WILLIAMS, *The Rice Institute, Houston, Texas.*

SAN FRANCISCO REGION Deficient rainfall continued through September, with a week of especially low humidity and many forest, brush, and



grass fires at the end of the month. Some rain came at the end of the first week in October, and a storm at the end of the month brought the first widespread rain of the season. This brought enough moisture to start the new crop of grass and winter annuals. By December a more than usually vigorous stand covered the hills. The long summer period of land-

bird scarcity was terminated by the tardy fall rains. In October, bird trips were again profitable in the San Francisco area and conditions remained good through November.

Observations available for this summary are still too meager to represent bird happenings in the region adequately.

Water birds came in large numbers according to the records of a few watchers able to be in the field. The reports indicate renewed availability of good study areas: eared grebe, Dumbarton Bridge, 4 in summer plumage on July 3 (Kelly); white pelican, Dumbarton Bridge, about 250 on September 9 (K.); green heron, Golden Gate Park, September 22 (K.); snowy egret, Lake Merritt, 15 on August 13 (Leffler), Moss Landing, 6 on September 9 (K.), Berkeley Aquatic Park, September 18 (Elwonger); Canada goose, probably subspecies *leucopareia*, Carmel River mouth, 3 on November 8, 4 on 13th, 5 on 17th, present on December 1 (Williams); pintail, Lake Merritt, 5 on August 12, first to arrive (L.); shoveller, Carmel River mouth, 2 on

October 31 (W.); wood duck, Fine Arts Pool, San Francisco, 3 on November 12 (K.); redhead, Fine Arts Pool, pair on November 12, Lake Merritt, November 18 (K.); ring-necked duck, Fine Arts Pool, November 12 (K.), Carmel River mouth, first on November 17 (W.); American golden-eye, Carmel River mouth, 2 on November 17 (W.); hooded merganser, Carmel River mouth, 1 on October 31 and November 8 and 17 (W.); Florida gallinule, Golden Gate Park, September 22 and October 3 (K.); semipalmated plover, Bay Farm Island, 2 on November 14 (K.); killdeer, University campus, Berkeley, September 17, first since spring (Weston); Hudsonian curlew, Bay Farm Island, 1 on November 14 (K.); lesser yellow-legs, Alameda, August 17 (K.); spotted sandpiper, Carmel River mouth, October 7 (Williams); wandering tattler, Bay Farm Island, August 19 (K.), Pacific Grove, July 24 and 26 (W.); ruddy turnstone, Bay Farm Island, October 28 (K.); Wilson's snipe, Carmel River mouth, 2 on November 8 (W.); Baird's sandpiper, Carmel River mouth, 2 on August 6 and September 12 (W.); red phalarope, Moss Landing, August 26 (W.); short-billed gull, Fine Arts Pool, November 12 (K.); glaucous-winged gull, half mile north of Point Lobos, October 4 (W.); glaucous gull, Bay Farm Island, November 14 (K.); kittiwake, Carmel River mouth, August 17 (W.); Sabine's gull, Carmel River mouth, August 23 and 24 (W.).

Few species have shown any indication of breeding-season activities in this period, but the following deserve mention: olive-sided flycatcher, Oakland, feeding young on August 29 (Curtis); California thrasher, Carmel, full song on September 19 (Williams); yellow-billed magpie, Hastings Reservation, revival of nesting activity in November involved more pairs and more continuous participation than has been observed in any other year.

Departures of summer birds came early or were so inconspicuous as to escape detection in most localities: poor-will, Carmel, injured bird on November 3 in Hatton Fields subdivision (Williams); western flycatcher, Golden Gate Park, October 3 (Kelly); wood pewee, Berkeley, September 23 (K.); warbling vireo, Golden Gate Park, September 22 (K.); yellow warbler, Golden Gate Park, October 3 (K.); black-throated gray warbler, Golden Gate Park, October 3 (K.); yellow-breasted chat, Berkeley, September 23 (Weston); pileolated warbler, Berkeley, about 6 on September 19 (K.); cowbird, Bay Farm Island, 8 on September 16 (K.); black-headed grosbeak, Berkeley, last on August 23 (W.). Hastings Reservation, October 10 (Linsdale).

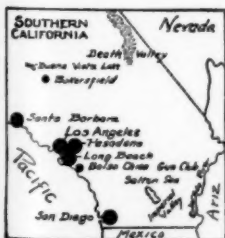
Arrival of wintering land birds came early for many species, but fewer individuals represented some species than were observed last year: Say's phoebe, Soberanes Point, 4 miles south of Point Lobos, September 16 (Williams), Hastings Reservation, September 16 (Linsdale); varied thrush, Berkeley, October 7 (Weston), arrived generally later and in smaller numbers than last year; golden-crowned kinglet, Carmel Highlands, 1 on November 1 and a

few to November 28, but not as numerous as a year ago (Williams); ruby-crowned kinglet, Berkeley, September 11 (Paroni), Hastings Reservation, September 17 (Linsdale), Larkspur, October 2 (Court-right), Carmel Highlands, October 3 (W.); cedar waxwing, Berkeley, September 18 (Weston), Hastings Reservation, September 19 (L.); myrtle warbler, Hastings Reservation, October 30 (L.); Audubon's warbler, Carmel, September 18 (Williams); white-crowned sparrow, Hastings Reservation, September 15 (L.), Berkeley, *pugetensis* on September 25, Alameda, *gambeli* on September 26 (K.); golden-crowned sparrow, Hastings Reservation, September 27 (L.), Carmel, September 29 (F. Morrow); fox sparrow, Alameda, September 20 (K.); Lincoln's sparrow, Hastings Reservation, September 15 (L.).

Each species listed below has its own basis for mention here. Interest mainly is in the place of occurrence. Pigmy owl, Carmel Highlands, October 7 (Williams); short-eared owl, Bay Farm Island, September 16 (Grinnell); raven, Golden Gate Park, September 22 (Kelly); russet-backed thrush, Carmel Highlands, many, after sunset, calling from flight overhead on September 21 (Williams); red-wing, downtown Oakland, 2190 counted in flight overhead on evening of August 21 (K.); western tanager, Alameda, 2 on August 16 (K.), Hastings Reservation, September 25 (Linsdale); white-throated sparrow, Hastings Reservation, December 13 (L.).

Hunters generally considered the valley quail as scarce, despite the slight increase in numbers in some localities following the most suitable season for their nesting in several years. At one of the most used shooting stations for band-tailed pigeons in Monterey County the birds vanished a few days before opening of the season. Hundreds of shooters returned home without shooting, or even seeing, a bird.—JEAN M. LINSDALE, Hastings Reservation, Jamesburg Route, Monterey, Calif.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGION The weather in the coastal section was unusually dry during the period. Light rains fell on August 17,



18, and 19, and there was some snow in the Big Bear country.

Common loon, 1, October 23, Cabrillo Beach (C.); white pelican, 1000, October 22, Charlton Flats (Kent), 2000, November 2, Sunland (Stultz); wood ibis, large flock, August 15, Carlsbad (Atkinson); white-faced glossy ibis, 14,

September 8 and 9, Baldwin Lake (Daugherty), 200, October 13, Salton Sea (S.), 1, December 3, Santa Clara River (Rett); snow goose, 5, December 2,

Carlsbad (Mrs. C. P. Smith); fulvous tree-duck, 2, October 13, Salton Sea (S.); blue-winged teal, 6, September 27, Santa Barbara (R.); pintail, 5000, November 25, Ventura (R.), 5000, September 8 and 9, Baldwin Lake (D.); baldpate, 500, November 25, Ventura (R.); turkey vulture, 72, September 28, Banning (Wilson), 45, October 13, Imperial Valley (D.); duck hawk, several reports of 1 and 2, August and September, Carlsbad, and 1, December 9, San Gabriel River Sanctuary area (Lt. Morgan, C., Mrs. C.); pigeon hawk, 1, September 26, Coronado (Raynor), 1, October 8, Malibu (K.).

Hudsonian curlew, 100, July 12, Redondo Beach (Shuart); lesser yellow-legs, 6, August 20, Carlsbad (K.), 1, September 15 and 30, same place (R.); spotted sandpiper, 7, August 12, Palos Verdes (S.); wandering tattler, 1-4, August 12-November 12, Palos Verdes to del Rey, and 1, September 22, La Jolla (R.); surf-bird, 11, September 30-December 8, del Rey; ruddy turnstone, 1-2, September 17-October 4, del Rey; black turnstone, maximum 46, September-November, del Rey (S.); knot, September 22, Mission Bay (R.), 1, October 8, Malibu (K.); Baird's sandpiper, 1, August 28, del Rey (K.); pectoral sandpiper, 3, October 8, Pt. Magu (D.); Wilson's phalarope, a few on ponds, August 24 and 28, Owens Valley (D.), 6, August 28, del Rey (K.); northern phalarope, thousands, August 24 and 28, Mono Lake and other lakes in Owens Valley (D.), 100, August 28, del Rey (K.); parasitic jaeger, 1, August 24, Carlsbad (A.), 2-3, a mile off shore, September 7, Santa Barbara (R.), 2, September 15, Carlsbad (R.); black tern, 1 immature, August 12, Sunland (R.); common tern, September 15 and 30, Carlsbad, and September 22, Mission Bay (R.), 1, October 8, del Rey (K.); royal tern, 10-20, September 22, Mission Bay (R.); elegant tern, 50-60, compared directly with royals, same place (R.); poorwill, August 30, Banning (W.); Vaux's swift, 12, September 20, Griffith Park (Q.), 2, September 23, San Diego (Sams); white-throated swift, 150, November 22-25, Twenty-nine Palms (K.), 100, November 25, Santa Clara River (R.).

At Anaheim, Anna's hummingbirds were reported to be eating persimmons. As many as 5 or 6 holes were sometimes found to have been drilled below but outside the calyx. Five or 6 hummingbirds were often seen in the neighborhood. Mr. Van Rossem has offered the reasonable suggestion that the holes were made by Audubon's warblers and that the hummingbirds merely lapped the juice. Hummingbirds will stay near a constant food supply, but the warblers eat their fill and are seen no more.

Rufous hummingbird, July 5, Ferndell (Colburn); Allen's hummingbird, great numbers, August 24, Owens Valley (D.), 3, September 28, Big Bear (D.); Lewis's woodpecker, the only one reported in the last 2 years, October 28, Santa Ynez River (R.); red-naped (red-naped yellow-bellied) sapsucker, 1, November 25, Big Tajunga (D.); red-breasted (Sierra yellow-bellied) sapsucker, September 20, Banning

(W.); wood pewee, a number, about September 25, SGRS area (C.); barn swallow, 300, September 23, San Diego (Sams); Clark's nutcracker, 3, October 22, Charlton Flats (K.); mountain chickadee, 3, August 15, Altadena (Fletcher), and September 16, del Rey (Curry); piñon jay, 200, October 12, Idlewild (Stultz).

Robins were abundant this year at lower levels: 300, December 9, SGRS (Mrs. C.); 6, Palm Springs, November 3 (W.). Only a few are usually seen away from the mountains.

Varied thrush, 10, November 4, Eaton Canyon (Michael); hermit thrush, first seen and heard, October 27, SGRS area (C.); mountain bluebird, as many as 250, November 15-December 9, SGRS area (C.). Cedar waxwings appeared in large numbers this year.

A remarkable wave of warblers was noted on September 8, 9, and 15 in the Big Bear territory by Mrs. Stultz and Mrs. Daugherty, who claim that their estimates are quite conservative: orange-

crowned, 300; Nashville, 200, Audubon's, 200; Telmie, 400; pileolated, 200.

Except for Audubon's, warblers seemed to be much less numerous in the SGRS area this season. Early observations of Audubon's warbler: September 29, SGRS area (C.); October 5, San Diego (C.); October 6, Santa Barbara (R.); October 6, Pasadena (Q.); October 8, Banning (W.).

Bullock's oriole, 1 ♀, November 1 and 13, SGRS area (C.); green-tailed towhee, at feeding station, October 27-December 2, SGRS area (C.); slate-colored junco, 3, November 25, Sunland (S., D.); chipping sparrow, 100, November 22-25, Twenty-nine Palms (K.); savannah sparrow, 3 banded by Mr. Rett, August 21, early. White-crowned sparrow, 5, September 16, Altadena (F.); 2, September 19, Eagle Rock (Yost); September 23, Banning (W.); September 27, Montebello (Pratt); September 28, SGRS (Lewis); October 1, Pasadena (Young); October 4, San Diego (C.).—J. H. COMBY, Box 378F, R. 3, Whittier, Calif.



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